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U. S. Department of Agriculture

AND-45-41

September 20, 1941

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AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

GOALS FOR AGRICULTURE IN 1942 WERE ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK at Salt Lake City and Chicago. This week a similar meeting is scheduled for New York, and the last of the regional get-togethers will be held at Memphis on Monday and Tuesday of next week. Secretary's announcements have been received with enthusiasm at the first two meetings. State Defense Boards already getting organized for active campaign to increase production of essential foods in the two areas where meetings have been held.

FREAK-DOWN OF THE NEW LEAD-LEASE REQUEST BY PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT last week reveals that \$1,875,000,000 of the total \$5,985,000,000 has been set aside for agricultural and industrial commodities. Secretary Wickard announced in Chicago Thursday that the Department would have \$1,000,000,000 of this amount at its disposal for making purchases of food for Britain. This fund is insurance on the guarantee of 85 percent of parity price proclaimed by the Secretary on six non-basic commodities. (The six items are evaporated milk, dried milk, cheese, eggs, chickens, and pork.)

NEED FOR THE PRODUCTION INCREASES IN FOOD CROPS is reflected in the minimum amounts of food required for Britain to carry on the fight against Hitler for another year. Here is a partial list: dairy products that will require between 4-1/2 and 5 billion pounds of milk; 18 million pounds of poultry meat -- chicken for the most part; 500 million dozen eggs; and the products of about nine million hogs. There are other items, of course, such as dried beans, canned fruits and vegetables.

SPIRIT AT THE SALT LAKE AND CHICAGO meetings was splendid according to vanguard of Department party returning to Washington this morning. At both places the chairman of the USDA Defense Board for each State represented reported at the concluding session giving the judgment of the entire State delegation on how close farmers could come to meeting the goals set for each State. Chairman after chairman bubbled with enthusiasm at the chance for farmers of their States to go all out in production in various lines. This was especially marked in the Chicago meeting. Half the chairmen reporting took occasion to remark that Corn Belt farmers were looking forward with joy to writing some dairy, poultry and hog production history.

THE GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT MOST GOALS will be exceeded. However, the dairy goal may be difficult to reach in a few areas (but the slack there may be taken up by overshooting of the goal in other areas where, as Missouri Defense Board chairman reported, they want to make their cows "hit on all four.") Unanimously the beef cattle States reported it will take a heavy educational campaign to reach the goals for greater beef cattle marketings. Range States say cattlemen will be loath to part with breeding stock in a period of high prices. Corn Belt feeder States say it's hard to fill up the

lots, especially as the feeding deal brought a loss instead of a profit to most farmers in recent months.

SECRETARY'S HAMMERING HOME of the fact that "this is OUR war," and that "food will win it, and write the peace" at both Salt Lake and Chicago seemed to crystallize thinking of groups at both places. Unanimous agreement expressed that food production is vital in defense, farm people could be depended on to meet production schedules, and official agencies and farm organizations to give farm families maximum help in overcoming obstacles to production.

WHEAT CROP IS NOW HARVESTED AND IN STORAGE. Season brought the greatest pressure on grain storage facilities ever experienced in this country. Commercial facilities are brim full. Only quick and accurate planning of temporary storage prevented transportation tie-ups at terminal markets. Chances about 50-50 for as large, or even larger, supply of grains requiring tight bin storage next year. New construction of storage facilities highly uncertain, because of structural steel shortages. Thus, with an average crop next year, the Department is looking to another year of real pressure on tight bin storage, both commercial and on the farm, even though allowance is made for some increases in capacity.

NO TROUBLE SEEN IN STORING CORN. Feeders moving out old stocks fast. Too, there is now plenty of No. 2 lumber in mid-western lumber yards for constructing additional cribs if needed.

PERSONNEL: Secretary Wickard announced Friday the appointment of Roy Hendrickson, USDA Personnel Director, as Administrator of SMA and Director of Marketing for the Department. Edwin W. Gaumnitz was named associate Director of SMA at the same time. Hendrickson steps into one of the Nation's most important jobs, that of initiating the movement of food supplies to Britain, as well as directing the Food Stamp Program and purchase of supplies for domestic programs. Since coming to the Department in 1933 as assistant to M. L. Wilson, then Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Hendrickson has proved his ability as an administrator, in his first job as well as later positions with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Personnel. NOTE: Milo Perkins, who resigned the position to which Hendrickson was named, was appointed Executive Director of the Economic Warfare Board headed by Vice-President Wallace. Announcement was made last week that the Office of Export Control would now go under control of the Economic Warfare Board.

AS A RESULT OF REORGANIZED DEFENSE SET-UP, the new operating agency, SPAB, headed by Vice-President Wallace and with Donald Nelson as Executive Director, has taken a realistic view of defense production. Announcement last week that auto production would be cut 48 percent in December was first of series of cuts on non-essential production to speed up production of actual defense items.

NEW FILM EXPLAINS FARMERS' ROLE IN DEFENSE: A new 16 mm movie (running time about 20 minutes) produced by the Department, titled "FARMERS AND DEFENSE," is now available in areas where regional meetings have been held, and additional prints will be available to all parts of the country when final two meetings are over. Film was previewed at the meetings. Made on the "Information Please" style (in fact, directed by the "Information Please" Director) the panel of "experts" are Secretary Wickard, FSA's Director

C. B. "Beany" Baldwin, AAA's Director R. M. "Spike" Evans and OADR's Director M. Clifford Townsend. Firing the questions is Everett Mitchell, NBC's Farm and Home Hour announcer from Chicago. Distribution for the most part will be handled through the State Defense Boards. Applications for filming the subject should be made through this board.

A NEW 3-MINUTE SUBJECT "FOOD FOR FREEDOM" also was previewed at the meetings. This film was produced by OEM cooperating with the Department. It is designed for a tie-in with regular newsreels at commercial theaters and will not be available for showing elsewhere for some time.

